

The publication of this Address has been delayed for the Committee to obtain materials for a History of the Town, which is designed to accompany it, and is now in press.

A few copies are presented in a separate form for the use of friends, in fulfilment of a promise made them by the author.

Cambridge, March 20, 1850.

AN
ORATION
DELIVERED AT MALDEN,
ON THE
TWO HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE
INCORPORATION OF THE TOWN,
MAY 23, 1849.

BY JAMES D. GREEN.

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST OF THE TOWN

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ORATION.

FRIENDS AND FELLOW CITIZENS :

It accords well with the best feelings of our nature to meet, as we do to-day, to commemorate our Fathers. Two hundred years ago they laid here the "first foundation stones" of the town of Malden. Such is the expression of Edward Johnson, of Woburn, who, in his "History of New England," published in London in 1654,* says, that these foundation stones were "laid by certain persons who issued out of Charlestown; and, indeed," he adds, Malden "had her whole structure within the bounds of this more elder town, being severed, by the broad spreading river of Mistick, the one from the other, whose troublesome passage caused the people on the north side of the river to plead for town privileges within themselves; — which accordingly was granted them." The brief record of what may be regarded as the act of incorporation by the General Court is as follows: "In answer to the petition of several inhabitants of Mistick side, their request is granted, viz. to be a distinct town of themselves, and the name thereof to be Maulden."

It is no unreasonable presumption, that it was for the purpose of being reminded here, in what was then a wil-

* Chap. vii. p. 211.

derness, of that spot in the parent country from which they had removed, and which now lay three thousand miles behind them, that the early settlers of this town gave to it the name of Malden.

It is the name of a town in England, in the county of Essex, about thirty-eight miles from London, which, if we take the authority of Camden as our guide,^{*} is identical with the ancient Camalodunum, once the capital of Cunobeline, a powerful old British king, and the seat of the first Roman colony in the Island. About the middle of the first century, it was made by the Emperor Claudius a place of great magnificence and beauty. The monuments, however, of Roman grandeur, by which it was distinguished, being, in the eyes of the native Britons, monuments of their subjection, were suffered by them to be of no long continuance. They were utterly demolished by the people, when they rose to throw off the Roman yoke; and the English Malden of the present day, though a town of some importance, is said to retain few or no vestiges of its ancient renown.

The affections of the first planters of New England still clung, as was natural, to the soil of their nativity. They gave utterance, at parting, to the emotions of the heart, when they said, “farewell, *dear* England;” and they designed, by the names they bestowed on the places of their abode, in this land of their adoption, to keep alive in their breasts the tender associations of home.

Of the first settlers of this town I now address many of the lineal descendants. As I turn the leaves of the early records, and read there, continually occurring, such names as Hill, Wait, Sprague, Sargent, Lynde, Howard, Nichols,

^{*} Camden's *Britannia*, edit. 1772, Vol. I. p. 353.

Upham, Dexter, Tufts, Pratt, Bucknam, with my own, and others too numerous to mention, I see that the original families have sent down their representatives; that their sons and daughters are still living here, — constituting, I know not what proportion, but probably a large majority, of the present population of the town.

Thus descended, it would be strange, indeed, did we not feel an interest in the inquiry, Who were our fathers? and Why did they come to settle here?

In pursuing this inquiry a reasonable curiosity will find enough to satisfy it. No cloud of uncertainty envelopes the subject. As a people, a constituent part of a commonwealth, or a community of nations, we have not to go back for our origin to a period of ignorance and semi-barbarism, when there were no letters, no records, but such as existed in the memory of uncivilized men, — vague and varying traditions handed down from father to son, through successive generations. We have our literal records, — family, town, and state records, — of all transactions interesting and important. Some of the leading founders of the colony kept a minute journal of occurrences from day to day. Such was kept by John Winthrop, the Father of the colony, from the time of his embarkation on board the *Arbella*, “riding at the Cowes, near the Isle of Wight,” to 1649, the year when Malden took its place among the towns of the rising State.

To go further back, — no obscurity hangs over the origin of that great movement of the public mind, in England, which led, in the early part of the seventeenth century, first to the colonization of this country, and next to the establishment at home of the constitutional and parlia-

mentary rights of the people. It forms a portion of history so written as never to be expunged.

Our Fathers were PURITANS. Let this be the enduring record of their fame. They were a class of men never to be spoken of but with honor, for what they have done and suffered for the human race. They constituted a class, to whom we may apply the language of Macaulay,* and say they were "men of generous natures," who made it "a point of conscience and of honor," "to sacrifice their country to their religion." Nay, more, they believed it a call of God, to sacrifice their lives to their religion. The first martyrs to the English Reformation, — Rogers, who was burned at Smithfield, in the reign of Mary, and Hooper, who was burned at Gloucester, — were both Puritans. So were Barrow and Greenwood, who, though professing, like the other Puritans, their loyalty to Elizabeth, were hanged at Tyburn. They were a class of men, who made no compromise between duty and policy, between conscience and expediency. It was no half-way reform, as was aimed at by the English prelacy, but a "root and branch" operation, which they thought needed, to cure the disorders of the Church and State.

Many of them had been in Germany and Switzerland, that they might breathe a freer and a purer air, and there they held sweet communion with brethren in the faith. Emancipated from the spiritual authority of Rome, profoundly venerated as it had been for its antiquity, and its claims to a direct apostolic succession, it was not to have been expected that they would bow in submission to a mere assumption of that authority, — an upstart and mock supremacy, which they had themselves seen usurped for

* History of England, Butler's Phil. edit., Vol. I., p. 52. See note A.

no other purpose, at the time, than the gratification of a selfish Sovereign's sensuality.

The power of the throne being applied to uphold the supremacy of the English church, and to compel uniformity of faith and practice, it was by the operation of causes perfectly natural that Puritans became Republicans. In defiance of all the constitutional safeguards for the protection of the British subject, the Star-Chamber and High Commission Courts were made the instruments of oppression. Oppression did but increase their number. Sir Walter Raleigh announced in Parliament, in 1593, that the Puritans were not less in number than twenty thousand.* In 1604, King James I. declared, "I will make them conform, or I will harry them out of the land."† And, under Charles I., who is said to have been "impelled by an incurable propensity to dark and crooked ways,"‡ and who ventured on the hazardous experiment of governing for eleven years without a parliament, a tyranny was established, both in the State and Church, to which the Spanish Inquisition affords the only parallel.

Hunted up by search warrants, deprived of their livings, hundreds thrown into prison, their families made dependent, their own lives at the mercy of a tribunal, whose forms of proceeding were guided by the will of a vindictive primate in defiance of all law, large numbers of the Puritans made up their minds to bid a final farewell to England. Of them were many, who had been educated in the Universities; ministers, who, in learning, were not excelled by any in the land; merchants possessed of wealth; some who were of noble birth, and accustomed to the refinements of

* Neal's History of the Puritans, Vol. I. p. 516.

† Ibid, Vol. II. p. 44. ‡ Macaulay, Vol. I. p. 67.

the best society; the great body of them intelligent and substantial yeomen, possessing, if not nobility of title, what is of infinitely greater worth, true nobility of soul; and all "stout-hearted and God-fearing men." In their conceptions of liberty, civil and religious, they were far in advance of their age. They came to these shores to enjoy, unmolested, their religion; to found in this wilderness a Christian Commonwealth, in which every voter should be a freeman, and every freeman a church-member. Their souls swelled with the great idea. Difficulty, danger, loss of country, perils by sea, an untried climate, and savage foes, all were of small account in the minds of men, who believed they were called of God to plant the church in the wilderness, and who felt inspired by the consciousness, as if from "some superior instinct," that they and their posterity were destined to be free.

In 1606, by letters patent from the king, James I., two companies of merchants, with some gentlemen and knights, had obtained a grant of all that portion of North America, which lay between the 34th and 45th parallels of latitude, and extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. This continent, being then almost wholly unexplored, no idea had been formed in any mind approximating to the magnitude of the grant. The object of the crown was the extension of British sovereignty, and, of the two corporations, sales of land warrants, and colonization for purposes of trade. Under one of these companies the first colony was planted in Virginia, in 1607, with a result but little answering to the expectation. Other attempts, successively made, proved entirely abortive. A higher than any mere worldly object was necessary for a successful colonization of the country.

The first company of Pilgrims, who came over in the *Mayflower*, in 1620, had obtained a patent from the Virginia company, but coming further to the North than the limits of the company extended, further even than they themselves designed, no benefit accrued to them from the patent. Arrived within the Cape, and embraced by its extended arm, they "solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God and of one another, covenant and combine" themselves "together into a civil body politic," for the better attainment of their ends, and for the enactment of "such just and equal laws, as shall be most meet for the general good." They entered into a compact of government, which forms, in the judgment of Mr. Justice Story,* "if not the first, at least the best authenticated case of an original social contract for the establishment of a nation, which is to be found in the annals of the world." It was a practical realization of what till then had been a pleasing philosophic theory. Having signed this voluntary compact, they proceeded to explore the coast, landed, and erected, in haste, their rude habitations in the midst of winter; and, in affectionate remembrance of the town in their native country, from which they last departed, they gave to the place the name of Plymouth. Thus was planted by the Puritan Pilgrims the first colony in New England.

The settlement of the Massachusetts Colony, to which our ancestors belonged, was a few years later. Encouraged by the success of the Plymouth Colony, and their exemption from the persecution which was still carried on at home with unrelenting severity, they made application to the Northern corporation, and obtained a grant, in 1628,

* Commentaries on the Constitution, Vol. I. p. 37.

of all the territory which is included between two lines, drawn, the one three miles south of Charles river, and the other three miles north of the Merrimack, and extending from sea to sea. The next year a charter was obtained from the crown, confirming the grant, creating the associates a body politic, and giving them, — was it not in an unguarded moment on the part of Charles? — powers of government, and liberties and privileges most ample. Matthew Cradock was chosen by the company their first Governor, and the certificate of his oath of office appended to the charter.

A small company, under the intrepid Endicott, had been sent over to begin the plantation at Nahumkeik, now Salem, and make preparations for the settlement of the Colony. Several persons,* with his consent, travelled through the woods about twelve miles in a westerly direction, and, coming to a neck of land, called Mishawum, between the Charles and the Mystic rivers, which was “full of Indians, called Aberginians;” they obtained consent of their Sagamore and settled there. Soon after, they gave to the place of their settlement the name of Charlestown.

A second company of about three hundred and fifty persons, in six vessels, with one hundred and fifteen head of cattle, also, cannon, small arms, and ammunition, and all the necessaries for a settlement, soon followed Endicott to Salem. Several ministers of eminence and piety came over in this company. About one third of the whole number proceeded to Charlestown.

Meanwhile a measure was resolved on by the corporation in England, which was of the utmost importance to

* See Note B

the Colony. The Royal Charter gave full legislative and executive authority, not to the emigrants in Massachusetts, but to the Company in England, who would thus exercise the whole power of government over the Colony, three thousand miles distant. From this mode of administering affairs but little benefit could be expected. The question therefore presented itself,—it was conceived and magnanimously proposed by Cradock himself,*—and, upon the best legal advice, it was decided, Aug. 29, 1629, to transfer the charter with the emigrants, in other words, to constitute the Colony itself the company possessing full powers of government from the crown. On this condition, “several gentlemen of figure and estate,” such as John Winthrop, Thomas Dudley, Isaac Johnson, Sir Richard Saltonstall, “and divers others, who were dissatisfied with the arbitrary proceedings both in church and state,”† had signified their purpose to emigrate; and this purpose they now carried into execution.

At a meeting of the company, held Oct. 20th, Cradock being too old to emigrate, ‡ John Winthrop was elected Governor, with a deputy, and eighteen assistants, and preparations were hastened for a large embarkation. Fifteen hundred persons, in seventeen ships, § fitted out at an expense of more than £ 21,000 sterling, passed over the Atlantic in 1630, most of them in company with Winthrop and the charter, to settle in Massachusetts Bay. Of these emigrants how just is the description given by Bancroft, in his History of the United States! “Many of

* Prince's New England Chronology, p. 189, sq.

† Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. I. p. 12. Hutchinson's Coll., p. 25, sq.

‡ Modern Universal Hist., Vol. XXXIX. p. 279.

§ Prince says *twelve*. Chronology, p. 240, sq.

them were men of high endowments, large fortune, and the best education : scholars well versed in all the learning of the times ; clergymen who ranked among the most eloquent and pious in the realm.” “ The land was planted with a noble vine, wholly of the right seed. Religion did not expel the feelings of nature : before leaving Yarmouth, they published to the world the grounds of their removal, and bade an affectionate farewell to the Church of England, and to the land of their nativity. ‘ Our hearts,’ say they, ‘ shall be fountains of tears for your everlasting welfare, when we shall be in our poor cottages in the wilderness.’” *

Such were the feelings with which they embarked ; but how sad a state of things they were to witness on their arrival at the infant settlement no one had imagined. Nearly one hundred of the Colony had perished the preceding winter. Among them was Higginson, a graduate of Emanuel College, the faithful and devoted minister of the church of Salem,—the first settled minister of the Colony. Many of the living were in a sickly and suffering condition, and nearly all were destitute of necessary supplies. The faith and fortitude of the new comers were now to be subjected to a severe trial. No time was to be lost in determining their places of settlement. The harbors and rivers, the Charles and the Mystic, were explored. The Governor and several of the chartered Company pitched upon Charlestown as their place of settlement, and “ the multitude set up cottages, booths and tents, about the town hill.” † Sickness, however, had already

* Bancroft's History U. S., Vol. I. p. 355. “ Humble Request ” of the Company, in Young's Chronicles of Mass., p. 295 – 298. See Note C.

† Prince's Chronology, p. 241. See Note D.

begun among them; brought on in many cases by long and close confinement on ship board, and in others by exposure, in consequence of imperfect shelter, to a climate, to which they were unaccustomed, and which is subject to sudden and extreme vicissitudes. Such, especially, as had been habituated, at home, to comfort and even luxury were unable to withstand the trial. Delicate woman sunk down into the grave. The Lady Arbella Johnson, "celebrated for her many virtues," who had come, in the language of an early chronicler,* "from a paradise of plenty and pleasure, in the family of a noble Earl, into a wilderness of wants," unable to support the hardships of her situation, ended her days, soon after her arrival, at Salem, and was there buried, where no stone has ever marked her grave. Her husband, for wisdom and piety esteemed as one of the first in the Colony, called by Dudley, † at the time, "the greatest furtherer of this plantation," borne down by his sorrow, survived her but a few weeks, and died at Boston. "He was," says Winthrop, "a holy man and wise, and died in sweet peace, leaving some part of his substance to the Colony." ‡ Around the place of his interment was formed the first burial ground; the one that adjoins the Stone Chapel. It has been said that he was mainly instrumental in causing the settlement of Boston, and its selection as the metropolis. One after another of the settlers, almost daily, dropped away. Not less than two hundred died before winter. Some, it is true, of weaker faith or less fortitude, returned, disheartened, to England; but, as for the rest, their sufferings only added new power to their faith and fortitude.

* Hubbard. † Letter to the Countess of Lincoln.

‡ Savage's Winthrop, Vol. I. p. 34.

In the midst of these trials, alarm was created by the report of a combination among the aborigines to cut them off, or drive them from the country. By the ordering of Providence, in mercy to the Colony, a fatal malady so reduced their enemies as to oblige them, if they had entertained, to abandon the design. So great mortality, indeed, had spread among the Indians a few years before the Pilgrims came, as to break down the strength of several of the tribes in the Massachusetts Bay. Numerous and warlike tribes remained, as the Narragansetts, Pequods, and others; but they were somewhat remote: the day had not come for conflict with them.

Here it is proper to remark, that the principle, by which the founders of the Colony were uniformly governed, of recognizing the Indians' title to the soil, and obtaining from them a fair relinquishment, has not been sufficiently understood. Positive instructions were given to Endicott by the company in England, immediately after they had obtained the royal charter, that, "if any of the salvages pretend right of inheritance to all or any part of the lands granted in our patent, we pray you endeavor to purchase their title, that we may avoid the least scruple of intrusion." * And, again, it is particularly enjoined, that "publication be made that no wrong or injury be offered, by any of our people, to the natives." † The memory of William Penn is held in lasting honor for his pacific policy towards the Indians; but half a century before he occupied the banks of the Delaware, the Colonists of Massachusetts Bay proclaimed the principle as their own,—and where is the instance of a departure from

* Company's Instructions, in Young's *Chronicles of Mass.*, p. 159.

† *Ibid.*, p. 172.

it?—to take no lands from the natives except by fair purchase. The instructions to Endicott were faithfully carried out. To this point we have the testimony of a most accurate historian, that “the first settlers of the Massachusetts and Plymouth made conscience of paying the natives, to their satisfaction, for all parts of the territory which were not depopulated, or deserted and left without a claimer.”* Hostility with the Indians was occasioned by other causes, springing, sometimes, from private quarrels having no reference to land titles, and instigated, at others, by enemies, open or concealed, to the principles and success of the Colony.

Besides Salem, Charlestown and Boston, settlements were made at Dorchester, Roxbury, Watertown, Newtown or Cambridge, and a few other places. To the excellent and honored Governor Winthrop was granted the farm, which, from that day to this, has been called the “Ten Hills,” on the South side of Mystic river; and to Matthew Cradock, the first Governor under the charter, who, though not coming himself, had largely adventured in the plantation, and had sent over agents and servants, was granted a tract of land containing about twenty-five hundred acres, which has been supposed by some to have been within the limits of the present town of Malden.† This is undoubtedly a mistake. It was the eastern portion of the present town of Medford, extending from the river Mystic across the plains to the hills upon the north; on part of which land was “empaled,” by Cradock’s agents,

* Hutchinson’s *Massachusetts Bay*, Vol. II. p. 266.

† Savage’s Note on Winthrop. Young’s *Chronicles*, p. 313: Note. 4. Dr. Young, singularly enough, refers to the “very thorough note” of Frothingham, in *History of Charlestown*, p. 89–93, which proves Cradock’s plantation to have been in Medford.

a "park for deer," and, on another, ship building was commenced, and prosecuted with success, at a very early day.

For most of the winter succeeding the arrival of Winthrop and the fleet, destitution and suffering among the colonists continued; the cold proved extreme; provisions were scanty; the poor were wretchedly lodged; "many were obliged to live upon clams, muscles and other shell fish, with ground nuts and acorns instead of bread;" * but still, under these great deprivations, they were able to thank God, "who had given them to suck of the abundance of the seas, and of treasure hid in the sands." † Having appointed a fast, and a vessel arriving, with provisions, a short time before the day, "they turned their fast into a thanksgiving."

The succeeding year proved favorable to the Colonists. The scarcity they had experienced induced greater efforts at tillage; the season was propitious; the harvest abundant. Notwithstanding all disasters, the Colony increased and prospered. Additions were made to the number of settlers by every arrival. In 1633, the emigration from England to Massachusetts became so large as to create alarm in the Government, and call forth an order of the king, in council, to arrest it. The tide may, for a short time, have been checked a little, but the effort to stop it was of no avail. Vessels continued to arrive here all summer; "twelve or fourteen in a month." The eminent ministers, Cotton, Hooker, and Stone, arrived this year. In 1635, came over a fleet of twenty vessels, bringing three thousand colonists; among the number were eleven ministers, and two individuals afterwards conspicuous as martyrs to the cause of English liberty,—Hugh Peters and Sir Henry Vane.

* Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. I. p. 23. † Ibid.

The number of freemen in the Colony having so increased as to render it "impracticable to debate and determine matters in a body," * the towns agreed, as early as 1634, to send deputies to a General Court, and thus was established the Representative branch of the Legislature, which soon after came to constitute a distinct and separate House, having a negative upon the Magistrates.

But I must pass more rapidly on. The Governor and assistants were chosen by the votes of the whole body of the freemen, and, by these votes, the wise and faithful Winthrop was re-elected, from year to year, to the chief magistracy, with now and then an intermission designed principally to guard against a precedent, which might lead to a Governor for life ; with a few intermissions, he was continued in the office, from the time he came over with the charter, to 1649, the year when he died, worn out by the cares of the infant Commonwealth, and severe personal and private trials ; worn out by care and trial, though blessed beyond most men, in being not only the "father of the Colony," but the founder of a family honorably distinguished in each generation, and having a representative in our day to preside over the councils of the Nation.

During the above period of nineteen years, between the first settlement of Charlestown and the incorporation of the town of Malden, the greatest obstacles to the success of the Colony had been overcome. That, in the many severe trials to which they were at times subjected, in the difficult, and delicate, and complicated questions presented for their adjudication, the Colonists should always have acted with an intelligence, a wisdom, and an enlarged

charity, two centuries in advance of the most enlightened nation in the world, would hardly seem to be a very reasonable expectation. Yet the censures which have so often been cast upon the Puritan founders of New England have implied as much; nay, more, they have implied, on the part of their authors, a misapprehension, to use the mildest term, of the true merits of the question, — of the substantial facts in the case. Having been persecuted at home, and driven to seek an asylum here, our ancestors had the right, nay, it was their duty, to adopt the measures which were necessary to protect themselves; to guard against secret as well as open enemies; against intruders and revilers, whose insidious purpose was to break down the authority of the magistrates, destroy the characters and influence of the clergy, interrupt public worship on the Lord's Day, outrage the moral sense and disturb the peace of society. No harsh measures were resorted to whenever mildness would avail. But, with those, who, after repeated admonition, obstinately persisted in obtruding themselves, and setting all authority and the moral sentiment of the community at defiance, our fathers were compelled, by the necessity of self-protection, to deal with a strong hand.

In the midst of these difficulties, the danger was, at times, imminent, of a revocation of the charter; special commissioners being appointed to regulate the affairs of the Colony, and a General Governor being talked of to be in the interest of the Crown. And here was afforded an early opportunity for the display of the independent spirit of the colonists. Indications were exhibited, too plainly to be mistaken, that in such measures they would not tamely acquiesce. Fortunately the experiment was not attempted; King Charles himself becoming so involved

in disputes with his people and parliament as to be obliged to let the Colony alone. To let the Colony alone,—this was all that the colonists desired. They asked no favor of the royal government; or no other than the favor of neglect. They had resources of their own, sufficient for their reliance. They had come to plant and settle here, wholly at their own cost; and, left to themselves, they were just beginning, under the smiles of heaven, to make the wilderness and the solitary place to be glad, and the desert to rejoice and blossom as the rose.

In the first ten years, twenty-one thousand two hundred settlers had arrived; or about four thousand families. They came in one hundred and ninety-eight vessels; and it seems a remarkable providence, that, out of the whole number which sailed, only a single one was lost. They came at their own charges. The cost of the transportation, with “their goods, the stock of cattle, provisions until they could support themselves, necessities for building, artillery, arms and ammunition,”* has been estimated, at what was called a “modest computation,” at £192,000 sterling, or \$853,333. This is exclusive of what was paid for the original patent, said to have been £2,000,† and of all that was paid “to the Sachems of the country.”

Under the hand of industrious labor,—on land which the occupants held by no feudal tenure, land which they could call their own, the fee being in themselves, their heirs and assigns, forever,—the face of nature was undergoing a rapid change; while civil and religious liberty struck its roots deep into a soil congenial to its growth, was nurtured by the free school and the independent church, and has

* Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. I. p. 93, note †.

† Ibid, Vol. II. p. 1

continued, under a favoring providence, to grow with a strong trunk, and to send forth its branches to every quarter under heaven; and it is our fervent prayer that "the leaves of this tree may be for the healing of the nations."

Before 1649, nearly fifty towns had been settled in the Colony; twenty-seven churches had been gathered; the rude huts and thatched cottages of the early planters had given place to substantial and comfortable dwellings; the land was made to yield more than was required for the sustenance of the inhabitants; a trade sprung up with the West India Islands, and other places, from which there was profitable return; the furs obtained from the natives were exchanged for foreign manufactures; ship building was commenced and prosecuted with spirit and success; and navigation, commerce, and the fisheries, displayed to the admiring world the intelligence and enterprise of the Puritan Colony.

That the rapid growth of the settlement and its advance over the country should have excited deep concern, in the bosoms of the native proprietors of the soil, was perfectly natural. Sagacious chieftains meditated the means by which they might check the intruders, or drive them off from their hunting grounds. In this state of feeling collision on the borders was hardly to have been avoided. Atrocities were sometimes perpetrated. The most formidable and hostile tribe was the Pequods, whose strength lay in the south-eastern part of Connecticut, and consisted of seven hundred warriors, who had made up their minds for aggressive measures. The few towns, which had just been settled in their vicinity by those who had removed from Massachusetts, were exposed to extreme danger, if not total destruction. A military force was promptly or-

ganized and sent against them. Their fort, surrounded by feeble rushwork palisades, was surprised and taken by assault, at early dawn ; their wigwams were set on fire ; a terrible carnage followed ; hundreds of Indians perished ; their settlements were broken up ; and, of the survivors, some were captured, while the rest were incorporated with other tribes. As a separate tribe the Pequods were extinct. It was a fearful demonstration, at that early day,—only seven years after the settlement of Charlestown,—of the efficiency of the English arms, which filled the savages with awe, and secured to the colonists many years of peace.

For more adequate protection in time to come, particularly to the scattered settlements ; for security against the Dutch on the south-western border, and against the French on the north and east, both of whom were manifesting a disposition to encroach, and were suspected of inciting the savages to hostility by supplying them with fire arms ; and for more effectual security against the various tribes, who were believed to be meditating a general combination for the extirpation of the white race from this continent, a union or a confederacy was formed, in 1643, of the colonies of Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven, with that of Massachusetts, to be known henceforth by the name of the “ United Colonies of New England.” The affairs of the confederacy were managed by commissioners, of whom two were appointed by each Colony.

The military force of Massachusetts, at this time, consisted of twenty-six organized companies, in four regiments, one in each county, together with a troop of horse ; the whole under command of the Deputy Governor, Thomas Dudley, as Major General. Castle Island had been forti-

fied some years ; and batteries were maintained both at Boston and Charlestown. Several of the first military officers in the colony, however, now returned to England, to enter into the service of the Parliament.

Such as I have attempted to describe it was the situation of the Colony at the time of the settlement of Malden ; and to this settlement I now ask your attention. This tract of land, at that time, formed, as you are aware, a part of Charlestown which comprehended within its limits an area of eight miles in extent, embracing, besides what is now Malden, the whole of the territory comprised in Reading, Stoncham, Woburn, Burlington, West Cambridge, Medford, excepting Cradock's plantation, and Somerville ; also excepting the farms of Winthrop, Nowell and Wilson. We are to conceive of these lands, lying on what was called at that time Mystic side, as being covered, like the rest of the main land, according to the Charlestown records, "with stately timber." "All the country round about" is said to have been an "uncouth wilderness full of timber." These lands, on Mystic side, were apportioned, doubtless, among the Charlestown settlers, according to the rules established by the Corporation before the Charter was brought over, which gave in the proportion of two hundred acres to every adventurer to the amount of £50, and fifty acres to every one who came over at his own charges. Among those to whom lands were thus granted, Increase Nowell, John Wilson, and Abraham Palmer, were persons of some consideration, who, not becoming settlers themselves on Mystic side, sold out to some of our ancestors.*

Several years before 1649, there were many inhabitants

* See Note E.

in this place. I find among the colonial papers, in the archives of the Commonwealth, a remonstrance to the General Court from the inhabitants of Mystic side, bearing date the 16th of May, 1643, against a proposed highway from Winnisimmet to Reading.*

It would be gratifying to a curiosity, not unnatural, to be able to identify the very spots where our fathers first erected their humble habitations, and the narrow and winding roads and lanes, which were first laid out and travelled. Some indistinct traces yet remain of these ancient ways, and the dwelling places by which they led, though discontinued, some of them, a century and a half ago. We may form some estimate, though at best but inadequate, of their plain and simple manners, and their hard and honest toil, in subduing a stubborn wilderness, and converting it into these fertile fields, which we now see around us clothed with so luxuriant a vegetation.

Our fathers here, at a very early period, only thirteen years after the incorporation of the town, felt themselves much straitened for want of room. In a petition which they sent, at that time, to the General Court, they say, "the bounds of our town are exceeding straight, the most of our improved lands and meadows being limited about two miles in length, and one in breadth, and that also, the most part of it, by purchase from Charlestown, whereof we were a small branch; from whom also we had all the commons we have, which is very small and rockie." They then speak of the great charges they are at for the country and the ministry, the long continued sickness of their teacher, with the fact that they are closely hemmed in by other townships, and they humbly petition

* See Note F.

the "much honored Court," "that a tract of land of about four miles square, at a place called Pennycook, may be granted as an addition to us, for our better support and encouragement in the service of Christ and the country." *

This petition, however, humble and earnest as it is, "the Deputies think not meet to grant." The place called Pennycook is now Concord, N. H., on the Merrimack river; and fortunate was it for our fathers that their request was denied. For, though the chief settlers of Ipswich had obtained leave to remove and begin a town, now Newbury, at the mouth of the Merrimack; and though "Watertown and Roxbury had leave to remove whither they pleased, so as they continued under this government," for "all the towns in the Bay," says Winthrop in his journal,† "began to be much straitened by their own nearness to one another, and their cattle being so much increased;" and though sixty of the inhabitants of Dorchester, and one hundred from Newtown, now Cambridge, men, women and children, upon leave obtained from the General Court, had performed, on foot, a journey of one hundred and twenty miles, through a pathless wilderness, with nothing to guide them but the compass,‡ driving before them their herds of cattle, with their effects; and though they succeeded in forming settlements on the Connecticut river, at Hartford, Weathersfield, and other places; yet, encouraged by these adventurers, had the early settlers of Malden obtained their request and removed to Pennycook, they would have gone to the very home of a numerous and hostile tribe of Indians, who continued, at intervals, for half a century, to attack and lay

* See Note G. † Savage's Winthrop, Vol. I. p. 160.

‡ Hutchinson's Hist. Mass. Vol. I. p. 45.

waste the feeble settlements on that frontier, sometimes taking captive the women and children, and, at other times, in their murderous onsets, making no discrimination on account of infancy, or age, or sex. Situated here, in close proximity to the centre of the population and military force of the Colony, our fathers enjoyed, from the first, a protection, in the peaceful pursuits of life, which could not easily have been secured to them in that remote and exposed quarter.

But though our fathers failed in their request for four miles square, or ten thousand acres of land, at Pennycook, their petition prevailed with the General Court to obtain one thousand acres, partly in Worcester and partly in Shrewsbury, to be "appropriated to the use and benefit of the ministry." This act of favor, on the part of the Colonial Government, it is the more grateful to record, from the contrast it presents to the extraordinary severity, with which the Malden Church was treated a few years before, on account of the settlement of their first minister, Marmaduke Mathews, when some of the neighboring Churches "were unsatisfied therewith;" — he, though a most pious and faithful pastor, called by Governor Winthrop, "a godly minister,"* having made use of some expressions, which were pronounced "weak, inconvenient and unsafe." The transaction is one of the most remarkable on record appertaining to the history of our churches. The defence, made by our fathers who constituted that Church, which, in its poverty and the feebleness of its infancy, was fined £50, shows that they had a clearer understanding of their rights as an Independent Church, and of the true principles of religious liberty, than the

* Savage's Winthrop, Vol. I. p. 273.

great body of the Magistrates and Deputies. It is pleasing to reflect that these extraordinary measures of the General Court were by no means adopted with entire unanimity, nor did they meet with a cordial response from all the other churches. Not a little comfort was imparted to the Church of Malden, in this their first and severest trial, by the expressed sympathy of their Salem brethren. I am disposed to believe that this grant of one thousand acres of land was designed, though not so expressed, as an acknowledgment, on the part of the General Court, of the injustice that was done to this Church, and as some indemnity for the injury inflicted.

It is not my purpose, for I should be trenching on another's province, to give an historical sketch of this town. But, I trust, I may be indulged in the remark, that the place made vacant in the pulpit of this early church, by the extraordinary proceeding to which I have referred, was soon filled by Michael Wigglesworth, whose pastoral relation seems to have continued for nearly half a century, though the active duties of his ministry were suspended by sickness, as Increase Mather has informed us, "for some whole sevens of years." A voyage to Bermuda somewhat improved, but did not completely restore, his health. When unable to preach, he devoted much time to writing for the "edification of such readers as are for plain truths, dressed up in a plain metre." * His principal poetical production, entitled the "Day of Doom," had no small celebrity at the time, passing through several editions, both in England and in this country. From another, entitled "A Short Discourse on Eternity," I will recite a few stanzas as a specimen of his poetry, and of

* Increase Mather, Funeral Sermon, preached at Malden, June 24, 1705.

the language in which he clothed some of the grand conceptions of his mind :

“ What Mortal man can with a span
mete out Eternity ?
Or fathom it by depth of Wit
or strength of Memory ?
The lofty Sky is not so high,
Hell’s depth to this is small ;
The World so wide is but a stride,
compared therewithal.

“ It is a main great Ocean,
withouten bank or bound ;
A deep Abyss, wherein there is
no bottom to be found.

* * * * *

“ Nought joyn’d to nought can ne’er make ought,
nor Cyphers make a Sum ;
Nor things Finite to infinite
by multiplying come ;
A cockle-shell may serve as well
to lade the Ocean dry,
As finite things and Reckonings
to bound Eternity.”

He was one of the Corporation of Harvard College ; father of the first, and grandfather of the second, Hollis Professor of Divinity in that institution. Of the regard entertained for him by the town, there is ample evidence upon the records. Particular days were appointed when “all the inhabitants,” as it is sometimes expressed, or “all the cutters and carters,” as expressed at others, were to “cut and cart firewood for Mr. Wigglesworth.” In addition to his stated salary of £55, with the use of the parsonage, he had given him by vote “all the strangers’ money,” and “a highway was granted to his

house through the town land." The moss-covered stone which marks the spot of his burial in yonder grave-yard bears the touching memorial of his people's love. He was their "physician both of soul and body."

Methinks I can see the plain meeting-house of those early days standing upon that spot on my left, near to the parsonage bought of Benjamin Blackman; numerous sheds, or stalls for the horses, being arranged on the one side and on the other; a row of them being placed by the side of this eminence from which I now address you, whose significant appellation of "Bell Rock" has come down to us with the tradition, that on this summit was suspended, by some rude frame work, the bell, which called our fathers to the worship of God on the Lord's Day, and the freemen of the town to the transaction of their public business, on days of general town-meeting. It was not till 1693, that the town "voted, that the bell shall be hanged on the top of the meeting-house."

There is much that is interesting in the early records, concerning the measures adopted for householders and masters of families to take their turns of service, for preventing disorders in the meeting-house "by the playing of boys and youth;" concerning the endeavors made to accommodate the "Charlestown neighbors" with seats in the meeting-house, — there being no pews in those days, but seats, — for men on the one side, and for women on the other, — the order of seating being "the minister's rate, with consideration of age and dignity;" also concerning the warnings repeatedly given to these same "Charlestown neighbors" against cutting and carting off wood and timber from the common lands; and, finally, concerning the division, by lot, of more than two thousand acres of

these lands among the seventy-four freeholders of the town, according to the valuation of their estates, making upon an average about thirty acres to each man. As it seems to be a most creditable testimony to his fairness and honesty, it ought to be mentioned, that it stands on the record as a vote of the town, "that John Sargent, Sen'r, is the man to draw the lots." This general division of the common lands took place in 1695. Subsequently small portions were assigned to individuals not freeholders; and to Thomas Newhall, it is recorded, was granted a part of the common near his own land, "he binding himself, his heirs and executors, to find the town with a sufficient training place both for horse and foot."

This leads me, by an obvious association, to remark, that the fortunes of our ancestors in this town were felt by them to be bound up in the fortunes of the country, and that they held themselves in preparation, when called upon, as they were from time to time, to furnish their quota of soldiers for the common defence. In every military expedition, indeed, of any importance, undertaken by the Government, whether against the Indians or the French, the names of Malden men are found upon the muster rolls, and, in several of the engagements, some appear on the lists of the killed and wounded.

In the war against the combined Indians, called King Philip's war, a war instigated and conducted by that sagacious and crafty Chief, for the purpose of exterminating the Colony, but which seems to have been precipitated before he was quite prepared, soldiers from this town were at the attack on the Narragansett fort, in the cold and snow of December, 1675; and, of the eighty-five who were slain, was Edmund Chamberlin, of Malden, and, of

the one hundred and forty-five wounded, were Lieut. Phineas Upham and James Chadwick. The Indians were totally routed, and it is supposed that about one thousand of them perished.

In the expedition, the year following, under Capt. Turner, upon the Connecticut river, where the Indians had repeatedly attacked the towns of Hadley, Hatfield, and Deerfield, the last of which they had entirely destroyed,—which expedition, though successful in driving the savages from that quarter, proved fatal to the gallant commander,—were several from this town, who were in the engagement at the Falls, now designated, from the name of the commander of the expedition, Turner's Falls. In the archives of State, is preserved a most affecting petition from Mary Ross, of Malden, to the Council in Boston, praying for the discharge of her husband from this war, he being aged and sick, and having long been in the country's service, and his family in great distress by reason of his absence. It affords some insight into the suffering not unfrequently occasioned, in private families, by the impressions which were resorted to for recruiting the forces.

But it was not against aggressions only from the French and Indians, that our ancestors felt compelled to be on their guard, but also against attempts on the part of the government of Charles II. to abrogate the charter, and control the Colony. The privileges, which our fathers here enjoyed, were regarded by that sovereign with no friendly eye. The sympathy which had existed between the Colony and the government of Cromwell, the neglect of Massachusetts promptly to proclaim the king on his accession, the shelter here afforded to the regicides, Whalley and Goffe, the determination manifested to withstand any

attempt to impose upon the Colony a royal governor, were all remembered by a monarch, whose arbitrary principles, he should have been aware, made him not more dreaded by Republicans, than his drunkenness and debauchery made him abhorred by Puritans. He lent a ready ear to accusations against the Colony, both from open and from secret enemies; and especially from one Edward Randolph, whose commission as Collector of the customs for the port of Boston had been disregarded, and himself treated as inimical to the interests and privileges of the Colony. The king sent over commissioners to hear and determine the matters of complaint; a long controversy ensued between them and the General Court; and their authority, being regarded as an infringement of the Charter, was not recognized. Decisive action, in revocation of the Charter, would probably have taken place immediately, had not domestic disquiet and alarm caused a postponement for a few years. In 1683, by an order of Council, a *quo warranto* was issued; and, in June of the following year, judgment was rendered by the high Court of Chancery against the Colony, "the Charter was declared forfeited, and their liberties were seized into the King's hands."*

But, in eight months, Charles II. died, and the sovereignty passed into other hands, though not to be exercised with any more favor to the colonial rights. The affairs of the Colony were now to be administered under a President and Council commissioned by the King. This arrangement, however, was of short continuance. The arbitrary and obnoxious Andros was appointed Governor, with a Council independent of the people. The House of Representatives was abolished. A censorship was established

* Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. II. p. 5.

over the press. It was declared to the Colonists, and by them never forgotten, "that they must not think the privileges of Englishmen would follow them to the end of the world." "The people were menaced that their meeting-houses should be taken from them, and that public worship in the Congregational way should not be tolerated." "The charter being vacated, the people were told that their titles to their estates were of no value." All property was regarded as insecure. "The Governor, with four or five of his Council, laid what taxes they thought proper;" and imprisonment was the punishment for remonstrating against the oppression.

Such tyranny was not long to be endured. On the 18th of April, 1689, the people of Massachusetts,—I venture to affirm that the people of Malden were with them,—simultaneously rose in arms; poured into Boston from all quarters; seized and imprisoned the Governor, with Randolph and about fifty others, their partizans; established a "Council for the safety of the people, and conservation of the peace;" † and appointed the venerable Bradstreet, then at the age of eighty-seven years, their President. Thus was established a provisional government. The towns were then called upon to choose delegates to an Assembly, or what we should now call a Convention, to whom the question was to be submitted of the resumption of the Charter.

The action of the town of Malden, at this important juncture, is recorded in the archives of the Commonwealth;—it is worthy to be there recorded,—and is as follows :

* Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. I. pp. 355, 356, 359, 361.

† Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. I. p. 381.

"May 6, 1689. At a Town Meeting of the Inhabitants of Malden ;

"Voted, agreed, and declared, by the Freeholders and Inhabitants of the town of Malden, that we do desire and expect that our honored Governor, Deputy Governor, and Assistants, elected and sworn by the Freemen of this Colony, in May, 1686, together with the Deputies then sent down by the respective towns to the Court then holden, and which was never legally dissolved, shall *convene, resume, and exercise the Government as a General Court, according to our Charter*, on the 9th day of this inst., May ; and, in so doing, we ho hereby promise and engage to aid and assist them to the utmost of our power, with our persons and estates.

"Ensign Jos. Wilson, and Henry Green are chosen by the town to carry this writing to the Council.

"As attest,

JOHN SPRAGUE,
JOHN GREEN."*

The Representatives of fifty-four towns met in Boston, and, pending the question of a resumption of the Government, the joyful tidings arrived of the Revolution in England, and the accession, to the throne, of William and Mary. Demonstrations, such as had never been witnessed here, were now made of the popular joy. The Colony was regarded with favor. Authority was granted for the exercise of the Government under the old Charter, until a new one should be settled. An order was received, also, for Andros and other persons in confinement to be sent to England.

* The above is copied from the Colonial papers in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth. The leaf containing it is missing from the Town Records.

A new Charter, in a short time, was granted ; the two Colonies of Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay were united as one Province ; and Sir William Phipps was appointed the first Governor. This is known as the Charter of William and Mary,—the Charter of 1692,—and under it the Government was carried on until subverted by the American Revolution.

Having now dwelt with considerable fulness upon the events attending the early colonization of Massachusetts, and the circumstances of the abrogation of the Colonial, and grant of the Provincial, Charter, connected with those topics supposed to be of most interest during the first half century from the settlement of Malden, I must content myself with a very cursory survey of the ground that remains ; touching only upon a very few points in the history of this town, besides those which are connected with the affairs of the Province.

It was in the early part of the last century, that they to whom I have alluded as the “Charlestown neighbors,” and who had, for many years, united with the inhabitants of Malden in public worship, aiding in the minister’s support by a free-will offering, were set off from Charlestown by the General Court, first for ministerial and school purposes, and, in a few years after, for all purposes whatever, to be incorporated with the rest of the town.

The original meeting-house having now stood for nearly eighty years, and undergone repeated repairs and enlargement, it was decided that a new one should be erected, and the question of its location gave rise to a controversy the most unfortunate in which the town has been engaged, and which was finally settled only by order of the Legislature, and a decree of the Supreme Court. The

breach, however, between the disaffected parties was not healed, and, in a few years, the south part of the town was set off, by the General Court, as a distinct precinct or parish ; and so continued for nearly sixty years, when, all differences being adjusted, there was a dissolution of the south parish, and a happy reunion with the rest of the town.

But, notwithstanding this unhappy division for a time, the town did not fail to act together as one man, on all those questions in which the rights and liberties of the Province were concerned. All minor, sectional, parochial differences were forgotten, when, in 1731, the town was called on to take some action in reference to the long continued and angry dispute, between the Royal Governor and the Provincial House of Representatives, respecting a fixed and permanent salary for that functionary. The Governor, under the first Charter, had been annually elected by the freemen of the Colony, and no difficulty at any time arose in regard to the compensation for his services. But, under the Charter of William and Mary, the Governor was appointed by the Crown, and would have been independent of the General Court and the people, had it not been for his salary, for which he was dependent on an annual grant by the House of Representatives. The King was urgent in his instructions that an honorable and permanent salary should be settled upon him, and the House were determined to keep him dependent upon their voluntary grant ; being willing, however, to pledge themselves to make that grant liberal from year to year. At times the controversy was attended with considerable asperity, increased often by the extent to which the Governor exercised his negative in regard to appointments for the Coun-

cil. It was at length declared by authority of the King, that, if the Assembly continue to refuse compliance with his will, "his Majesty will find himself under a necessity of laying the undutiful behavior of the Province before the Legislature of Great Britain, as it manifestly appears that this assembly, for some years last past, have attempted, by unwarrantable practices, to weaken, if not cast off, the obedience they owe to the Crown, and the dependence which all colonies ought to have on their mother country." *

But the House were not intimidated. They remained inflexible in their purpose ; though fears were entertained by many that the chartered rights of the Province would, in consequence, be taken away.

When, at this time, the question was submitted here, in Malden, in General Town Meeting, it was voted, and, for aught that appears, without a dissenting voice, "that the town will stand for their privileges according to the Charter."

The same watchful jealousy for the preservation of their privileges is seen in the vote of the town, upon the plan proposed, for a *Union of the Colonies*, to resist the threatened encroachments of the French ; who had extended a chain of forts, on the back of New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, reaching from the St. Lawrence to the Ohio river. This Union, as projected, was to be formed of delegates, chosen by the several Provincial Assemblies, to be under a President appointed by the Crown ;—the President to have a negative upon all their acts ; and these acts to be further submitted for approval to the King. It was to be a Confederation of these Colonies, under the

* Hutchinson's Hist. Mass., Vol. II. p. 372.

control of the King, for purposes of peace and war ; for the regulation of trade with the Indians ; for the purchase and disposal of lands for settlement ; for the maintenance of an army and navy ; and for the levying of duties and taxes for the above mentioned purposes.

This plan for a Confederation, however strong were the reasons which induced the Convention, by whom it was formed, unanimously to recommend it, met with no favor from the Colonial Assemblies, on account of the vast power it would vest in the King.

“ At a public town meeting, in Malden, Jan’y 29, 1754, Benj. Hills, Moderator: The question was put, — Whether the town do esteem that the scheme for a plan of Union of his Majesty’s colonies, on the continent, (lately considered and debated on by the General Court,) would be likely to be beneficial to this Province ? And it passed in the negative.” *

The plan was rejected by the several Colonial Legislatures, because rejected by the people in their primary assemblies.

But, though opposed to this plan of Union, the people of this town were prompt, at all times, to aid the Government, by men and money, in the common object of repelling the encroachments of the French. In that brilliant exploit, the capture of Louisbourg, in 1745, a place so strong as to be called the “ Dunkirk of America,” and which was effected, to the astonishment of Great Britain, by Provincial troops, more than three thousand of whom were furnished by Massachusetts, it may be safely affirmed that this town was fully represented. † Soldiers from this

* Town Records.

† The Muster rolls of the Massachusetts forces engaged in this expedition are not to be found in the archives of the Commonwealth

town were with the troops of the Province in the expedition against Nova Scotia, in 1755 ; and the names of at least twelve Malden men, of whom four were officers, appear on the rolls of the army in the expedition to Crown Point, the same year ; some of whom were in the sharp engagement with the enemy under Baron Dieskau, on the 8th September, near the south end of Lake George.

In the great exertion made by the Province, in 1757, when it was determined to raise an army of seven thousand men from Massachusetts for the Canadian frontier, and, twenty-five hundred being wanted to complete that number, resort was had to draft and impressment, the town of Malden voted to pay a bounty of £10 to every man who should be drawn for the expedition. They formed a part of that army of sixteen thousand men, about one half regulars, the greatest military force that had then been embodied on the continent, which was placed under the command of Gen. Abercrombie for the reduction of the strong fortress of Ticonderoga. The attempt was unsuccessful and disastrous. That officer was superseded by Gen. Amherst ; the fortunes of the war were changed ; five thousand more troops were ordered by Massachusetts ; Malden again responded with her *quota* ; the French fortresses were captured ; Quebec and Montreal fell into the hands of the English and Provincial army ; and thus was effected, mainly by the valor of the Provincial troops, the entire reduction of Canada.

Strong hopes had been entertained that the conquest of Canada would be followed by peace and security, and that the fervent prayer of every American heart was now to be answered, in that "every man should sit under his vine

and under his fig-tree, with none to make him afraid." But the events of these few years had opened the eyes of Great Britain to the growing importance of these Colonies; and now was commenced that series of ill-advised and oppressive measures, which eventuated in their total separation from Great Britain, and the establishment of their Independence.

This brings me down to comparatively recent times. I refrain from an account of that memorable struggle with the parent country. You are all familiar with the story of the Revolution. You have heard it from the lips of your fathers and grand-fathers, who were eye-witnesses and actors in the scenes.

It is a pleasing and grateful duty to remark upon the evidence that exists, that the people of Malden were not behind those of any town in patriotic efforts, in proportion to their means. Their votes in town meetings, as they stand upon the records, — their instructions to their Representatives, — their determination to resist the execution of the stamp-act and all measures of British taxation, — their refusal to purchase goods of particular individuals importing contrary to the agreement of the merchants, — their concurrence in the measures taken to prevent the consumption of tea until the revenue acts should be repealed, — these, and various resolutions of the town in sympathy with and support of Boston, in the hour of her distress, — their concurrence and assistance in the measures of the Provincial Congress, — and the declaration of their readiness to defend their rights with their blood and treasure, — all afford proof of their ardent and sincere attachment to the cause of American Liberty.

For a considerable period before the commencement of

the contest, as is apparent, the nature of that contest had been distinctly foreseen by the people of this town. They commenced and vigorously prosecuted their military preparations. The officers were ordered "to make a critical review of the arms, ammunition and accoutrements of every inhabitant;" to exempt none from military duty under sixty years of age, unless exempted by law, and to parade and drill the company twice a week.

On the memorable 19th of April, 1775, Capt. Blaney's company of seventy-five men promptly marched "to resist the ministerial troops;" and, on the 17th of June, they were stationed, in pursuance of orders, at Beacham's Point, as an attack from the enemy was apprehended there; and, from that point, they were near spectators of the sanguinary conflict of that day.

On the 19th of June, the town took measures to compel those inhabitants of Boston and Charlestown, who had here sought refuge from the impending storm, to do military duty with the inhabitants of this town, for the common defence.

On the 21st of June, application was made to the Provincial Congress for directions in the use of the Artillery, for authority to enlist men to use them, and to request assistance from the army for the defence of the town, in the very dangerous situation of the south part, particularly, which lay within reach of the enemy's guns on the heights of Charlestown.

The people of this town were familiar with the danger, and were able to count the cost, when they gave their INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR REPRESENTATIVE, IN 1776. With their sentiments, as expressed in these Instructions, in regard to their relation to the parent country; the warmth

of the affection toward her which they had once felt ; and the causes which had produced a change, and led them to desire a separation and the establishment of an American Republic ; you have been made as familiar as with household words. The force and eloquence, with which those sentiments were expressed, attracted the attention of Chief Justice Marshall, who deemed a portion of them to be worthy of a place in his “ Life of Washington.” * To the Continental Congress they gave the assurance, that, if America should be declared to be a “ Free and Independent Republic,” they “ will support and defend the measure, to the last drop of their blood, and the last farthing of their treasure.”

This was no empty boast. Their blood and treasure were liberally poured out in redemption of their pledge. They were connected with the army, and shared in its successes and reverses, from the beginning to the end of the war. On the roll of the eight months men are the names of forty-six from the town of Malden, and it is believed a much larger number were among the enlistments for the period of the war. As bounty for soldiers to recruit the army, from time to time, and for supplies, the town raised but little short of £10,000, in the currency of the times, or nearly \$2,000, of the standard of silver, and this at a period which is without a parallel in the country for derangement of the currency, and pecuniary distress. † On a single occasion, to meet an urgent call for ten men to join the army of Washington, the town voted to raise, as a bounty for them, six hundred dollars in silver, five hundred of which were ordered to be collected and paid in ten days.

* Vol. II. p. 407, sq. Phil. Ed. 1804. † See Note II.

How great was that pecuniary distress, which the people of Malden suffered, in common with the country, before the close of the war, some idea may be formed from the very touching memorial, which they sent to the General Court, in January, 1782, on the inability of debtors to meet the demands of creditors, and praying the interposition of Government, that *executions may be stayed?* In that memorial they say, that many have "lodged their money in the public funds, with a view to public as well as private advantage. Of this money they cannot now avail themselves; and is it just, that men should be distressed and ruined, whose inability to satisfy the demands of their creditors proceeds only from the inability of Government to pay their debts to them? Is it reasonable, that a man should be compelled to sell the inheritance of his fathers for a trifle, or be hurried into a gloomy prison, who is a creditor to the Government for a larger sum, than he is a debtor to any man upon earth?" * It may be of interest to you for me to state, that the Chairman of the Committee, who reported this memorial, was Ezra Sargent, the Representative of the town.

But the cloud which hung over the minds of men, and cast its dark shadow over the country, was ere long rolled away. The heavens brightened with a glorious promise. The words of the Hebrew sage were verified, that "the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." There is a righteous Providence which overrules the affairs of nations as of individual men, and, in "firm reliance on the protection of that Providence," our fathers struggled, and were sustained. Success crowned their efforts. The object, worthy of all the sacrifice, was attained.

* Town Records.

Fellow Citizens : — I trust it may have been, in some degree, apparent, from this address, that it was the Spirit of Liberty, civil and religious, taking its rise with our Puritan Ancestors, which inspired them in their resistance to the arbitrary and oppressive measures of the English hierarchy ; which led them to cross the ocean, and seek an asylum here for the enjoyment of their rights ; which nerved them to withstand the trials incident to a remote colony, dependent upon its own resources, in a wilderness, and surrounded by enemies ; which laid the foundations of the Commonwealth in the Free School and Independent Church ; which, with a jealousy that never slumbered, guarded from encroachment the rights conferred by Charter ; and which conducted, finally, to national Independence, and the establishment of our glorious Union and Constitution.

Through the whole series of events leading to this grand consummation, it has been my object to show that our ancestors, in this town, have performed their part, from the time of their first settlement here. By the sentiments they publicly expressed, and the acts they performed, they aided, at all times, in sustaining the rights of the Colony and Province ; and, in the Revolutionary struggle, they were second to none in patriotic effort, and personal sacrifice ; while the declaration of their sentiments has gained a place in American History.

And now contemplate the result ! Our Commonwealth is one of a family of nations. Two generations have passed away. The original thirteen have increased to thirty States ; and three millions of people have multiplied to more than twenty millions ; while our boundaries, realizing the terms of the original patent, now stretch

from sea to sea,—literally an Ocean-bound Republic ; — a vast CONFEDERATED REPUBLIC ; which, in its institutions of Government, state and national, — in the intelligence of its people, — in its moral and physical energy, — in its exhaustless resources, — in the elements it possesses of power and prosperity, and of peace and happiness, — presents a spectacle, which may be said, without exaggeration, to be the admiration, as it is the hope, of the world.

Cherishing common memories of the past, and sharing in common hopes ; bound together by a common language, a common interest, a common polity, and a common liberty, purchased in a contest successful only through united effort ; may the people of these UNITED STATES cherish a fraternal sympathy ; and, amid all the convulsions of the elements, whether moral or political, may they cling to that ark of their safety, — the AMERICAN UNION.

Think of the position which this Republic occupies in the eyes of the nations struggling for Liberty, — long struggling, — with alternate hope and despair ; and then answer the question, — Can he be a friend to the best interests of his country, or his race, who will say or do aught that is intended to weaken the ties of our Confederacy ?

It is a priceless inheritance which our fathers have bequeathed ; and we, their children, must be ungrateful to God, and recreant to the blood that flows in our veins, if we fail to perform our part to transmit it unimpaired to our posterity.

Here, on this continent, which had lain in the silent repose of nature for more than thirty centuries, while kingdoms were rising and going down over the other three quarters of the globe, a nation, in the fulness of time, has

been brought into being by the Providence of the Almighty ; in its youth its sinews have been girt with the strength of maturity ; and it is advancing in its career with gigantic strides. Does any thing for a time retard, nothing can stop, its progress. Every pause seems but a breathing time to accelerate its onward march. And,—to its destiny, what human power or prescience can set the bounds ?

At a time when nature herself seems to be bowing to the will of man, and placing her most mysterious agencies at his service to do his bidding ; to carry him over the earth with the fleetness of the wind, and transmit his thoughts and volitions to the most distant places with the velocity of the lightning ; and when every new power acquired by him does but increase his capacity for acquisition ; what imagination can conceive, or tongue adequately express, the destiny, which even here upon earth seems awaiting the human race !

Following the example of our ancestors, in devout recognition of the Divine Superintendence ; regarding ourselves as Trustees, with a Commonwealth in our keeping, which they founded in the virtue and intelligence of the people ; and bearing in mind the great truth, that virtue and intelligence are the only true basis for a nation's prosperity and happiness ; may we carefully preserve and hand down the precious deposit,—so “ that the generations to come may know the God of their Fathers, and serve him with a perfect heart, and a willing mind.”

NOTES.

NOTE A.—PAGE 6.

The application intended by Macaulay of this remark is not perfectly apparent. Few English writers can do justice to the character of the Puritans. The statements of one, who writes in such an off-hand style, require some qualification in order to be consistent either with truth or one another. For example, speaking of the "Puritans in the days of their power," he says,

"They proved as intolerant and as meddling as ever Laud had been. They interdicted, under heavy penalties, the use of the Book of Common Prayer, not only in churches, but even in private houses. It was a crime in a child to read by the bedside of a sick parent one of those beautiful collects which had soothed the griefs of forty generations of Christians. Severe punishments were denounced against such as should presume to blame the Calvinistic mode of worship. Clergymen of respectable character were not only ejected from their benefices by thousands, but were frequently exposed to the outrages of a fanatical rabble," &c.—*Hist. of England, Butler & Co., Phil.*, 1849. Vol. I. p. 118.

How is the foregoing to be reconciled with the following passage referring to the Protector's administration?

"Justice was administered between man and man with an exactness and purity not before known. Under no English Government, since the Reformation, had there been so little religious persecution. The clergy of the fallen Anglican Church were suffered to celebrate their worship on condition that they would abstain from preaching about politics. Even the Jews, whose public worship had, ever since the thirteenth century, been interdicted, were, in spite of the strong opposition of jealous traders and fanatical theologians, permitted to build a synagogue in London."—*Ibid.* p. 102, 103.

NOTE B. — PAGE 10.

"Amongst others that arrived at Salem, at their own cost, were Ralph Sprague, with his brethren, Richard and William, who, with three or four more, by joint consent, and approbation of Mr. John Endicott, Governor, did, the same summer of Anno 1628, undertake a journey from Salem, and travelled through woods about twelve miles to the westward, and lighted of a place situate and lying on the north side of Charles river, full of Indians, called Aberginians.

"The Inhabitants that first settled in this place, and brought it into the denomination of an English town, were, in Anno 1628, as follows, viz.:

"Ralph Sprague ; Richard Sprague ; William Sprague ; John Meech ; Simon Hoyte ; Abraham Palmer ; Walter Pamer ; Nicholas Stowers ; John Stickline ; Thomas Walford, Smith, that lived here alone before ; Mr. Graves, who had charge of some of the servants of the Company of Patentees, with whom he built the Great House this year, for such of the said company as are shortly to come over, which afterwards became the meeting-house ; and Mr. Bright, Minister to the Company's servants.

"By whom it was jointly agreed and concluded that this place on the north side of the Charles River, by the natives called Mishawum, shall henceforth, from the name of the River, be called Charlestown, which was also confirmed by Mr. John Endicott, Governor." — *Charlestown Town Records. Buntington's Hist. of First Church, Charlestown, p. 172 sq.*

NOTE C. — PAGE 12.

After such a testimony, which is but one of many to be found in Bancroft's History, in terms of warm admiration of the character of the settlers who came over in the fleet with Winthrop, it is difficult to withhold an expression of surprise, that his meaning should have been misapprehended, in the passage, in which he speaks of "the *Puritan felons* that freighted the fleet of Winthrop." Vol. II. p. 455. Can it be supposed to be other than an ironical reference to the well-known calumnies of certain foreign writers, who have been pleased to compare the first settlement of New England to that of Botany Bay, and to represent the Puritan Pilgrims as discharged convicts and felons ? — See *Young's Chron. of Mass.*, p. 127., n. 2. Also *Inhr.*, p. 565, where the above passage is referred to as "*Bancroft's slander of the Massachusetts Colonists* !"

NOTE D. — PAGE 12.

"1630. July. Arrive at Charlestown, Gov. Winthrop, Dep. Gov. Dudley, Sir Richard Saltonstall. Mr. Johnson, Ludlow, Nowell, Pynchon, and Bradstreet, with the Massachusetts Colony CHARTER; as also Mr. Wilson and Phillips, ministers, with about fifteen hundred people, brought over in twelve ships from England. But many of our people being sick of fevers and the scurvy, we are thereby unable to carry up our ordnance and baggage so far; the Governor and several patentees dwell in the Great House last year built by Mr. Graves, and the rest of their servants: the multitude set up cottages, booths and tents about the Town-Hill, and their meeting-place is abroad under a tree, where Mr. Wilson and Phillips preach.

"On Noddle's Island lives Mr. Samuel Maverick; a man of a very loving and courteous behavior, very ready to entertain strangers. On this Island, with the help of Mr. David Thompson, he had built a small fort, with four great guns to protect him from the Indians. On the south side of Charles River mouth, on a point of land, called Blaxton's Point, lives Mr. Blaxton, where he only has a cottage;—the neck of land from which the point runs, being in Indian named *Shawmut*, afterwards Boston. To the south-east thereof, near Thompson's Island, live some few planters more. These were the first planters of those parts, having some small trade with the natives for beaver skins, which moved them to make their abode in those places, and are found of some help to the new Colony.

"But having had a long passage, some of the ships seventeen, some eighteen weeks a coming, many people arrive sick of the scurvy, which increases for want of houses, and by reason of wet lodging in their cottages, having no fresh food to cherish them. And, though the people are very pitiful and loving, yet the sickness with other distempers so prevails, that the well are not able to tend them, upon which many die, and are buried about the Hill; yet 'twas admirable to see with what Christian courage many carry it amidst these calamities.

"July 30. Friday, the day of solemn Prayer and Fasting kept at Charlestown, when Gov. Winthrop, Dep. Gov. Dudley, Mr. Johnson, and the Rev. Mr. Wilson, first enter into church covenant, and lay the foundation of the churches both of Charlestown, and afterwards of Boston.

"Aug. 1, Lord's Day; five more join to the Church at Charlestown, who, with others quickly added, choose Mr. Wilson for their Pastor; the greater number, at this time, intending no other than to settle here,

where the Governor orders his house to be cut and framed. But the weather being hot, many sick, and others faint upon their long voyage, people grew uneasy for want of water; for though this neck abounds with good water, yet they only found a brackish spring by the water side, in the sand, on the west side of the north-west field, which was not to be come at but when the tide was down, and could not supply half the necessities of that multitude: at which time the death of so many was thought to be owing to the want of good water.

"This made several go abroad upon discovery. Some go over to Shawmut, on the south side of the river. Some go without Charlestown neck, and travel up into the main, till they came to a place well watered; whither Sir R. Saltonstall with Mr. Phillips and several others went and settled a plantation, and called it Watertown. In the mean time Mr. Blaxton, of Shawmut, coming over, informs the Governor of an excellent spring there; withall inviting and soliciting him thither, upon which it seems that Mr. Johnson with several others soon remove and begin to settle on that side of the river." — *Prince's Annals*, p. 240—244.

NOTE E. — PAGE 22.

The following is a literal copy of an original Deed from Abraham Palmer, which is still preserved, and will serve to show how vague was the description in conveyances of real estate made in the early days of the Colony.

"Know all men by theise presents, that I, Abraham Palmer, of Charlestown, Merchant, have bargained and sould unto James Greene, of the town aforesd, planter, one portion of land situate and lying in Mysticke field, containing, by estimation, more or less, thirty acres. Bounded on the south with the lands of John March, on the north with the lands of Widdow Rand, with one meadow lying by the north spring; with other two parcellls of meadow, the one being against Mr Nowell's farm: and the other adjoining to the land of the widow Coale. All which parcellls, both of upland and meadowing, with all the appurtenances unto them belonging, that is to say, — all the houseing, timber, and all other accommodations unto them, I, the foresd Abraham Palmer, being the true and lawful owner of them, have sould unto the aforesd James Greene, for and in consideration of seaventy pounds, the sd James Greene to have and to hold the foresd houseinge or lands, wither pasturing, meadowing, or broken up lands, together with all and singular the appurtenances and priviledges thereunto belonging; to him and his heirs and assignes for

ever, without any disturbance or molestation. In witness whereof I the sd Abraham Palmer, have sett to my hand and scale this thirtieth of March 1647 :

Sealed and delivered
in the presence of us

ABR. PALMER (L. S.)

EDWARD MELLOWES.

acknowledged the 8th, of the 9th
mo. 1648, before me INCR: NOWELL.

Recorded 22 (12) 1648, by WILLIAM ASPINWALL, Recorder."

NOTE F. — PAGE 23.

The following is the remonstrance referred to in the text :

" 16 : 3 : 43.

" To the Honored Court.

" The humble petition of several inhabitants of Mistickside and others in Charlestown ;

" May it please you to understand that there hath been lately laid out a highway from Winnisimmet to Reading by appointment of the General Court, whose orders in all things will most willingly and duly bind us to submit unto, assuring ourselves that their principall aim is the public good ; which under favor we consider is not consistent with the laying out of that way as now it is done ; for that it thwarts near twenty small lotts, also many other lotts ; which, if by means thereof, the owners be forced to fence out the way, a great part of the land must be sold to make the fence, the owners being many of them poor, and not able to bear the charge thereof, some of them having four fences already against common and highway ground. Wherefore our humble request is that the said act may be recalled, and that the way unto Winnisimmet from Redding may be in the highway leading toward the penny ferry, unto the house of James Vassell, and so by the townway leading directly unto Winnisimmet, lying on the head of the five aere lot by the south spring, which is also a plain, firm, trod way, and but little about, — the which they now stand charged to fence against, and cannot secure their planting without it. So shall we be bound to pray as we desire daily to do for your prosperity and peace, temporal and eternal.

JO GREENLAND
RICHD DEXTER
FRANCIS WHEELER
GEORGE HALL

in the name of the rest."

Mass. Archives, Vol. 121, p. 21.

NOTE G. — PAGE 29.

Petition of Malden for Pennycook.

To the Hon^d Court now assembled at Boston the 7th of the 4th Mo. 1662. the petition of the inhabitants of Malden humbly shewing;

"That the bounds of our town are exceeding strait, the most of our improved land and meadow being limited about two miles in length, and one in breadth; and that also the most part of it by purchase from Charlestown, whereof we were a small branch: from whom also we had all the commons we have; which is very small and rockie.

"That hitherto we have had no enlargement from the countrie, nor can we have any neere adjoining, being surrounded by sundry townships. That our charges to the countrie and ministry much exceedeth sundry others, who have many times our accommodations, and as many here do know.

"Our teacher, Mr. Wigglesworth, also hath been long visited with verie great weaknesses from which it is much feared he will not be recovered.

"For these and other weightie considerations, our most humble petition to this much honored Court is that a tract of lands of about foure miles square, at a place called Pennycooke may be granted as an addition to us, for our better support and encouragement, in the service of Christ and the Countrie; to be laid out by Mr. Jonathan Danforth, or some other artist, and Capt. Ed. Jonson or John Parker.

"So with our heartie prayers to God for your utmost peace and prosperitie, we crave leave to subscribe ourselves,

yr. verie humble servants,

JOSEPH HILLS
WILL. BRACKENBURY
JOHN WAYTE
JOHN SPRAGUE
ABRA. HILL
THO. CALL
JOB LANE
PETER TUFTS
ROBERT HARDIN

In the name of the rest.

"The Deputies think not meete to grant this petition,

WILLIAM TORREY Clerk."

Mass. Archives, Vol. 112, p. 147.

Order of the General Court as to Pennicook.

"Upon information that Pennicook is an apt place for a township, and in consideration of the Lord's great blessing upon the countrie in

multiplying the inhabitants and plantations here; and that almost all such places are already taken up, it is ordered by this Court that the lands at Pennicook be reserved for a plantation till so many of such as have petitioned for lands there or at others shall present to settle a plantation there.

"The Deputies have past this, desiring the consent of our Hon^d Magistrates thereto.

WILLIAM TORREY, Clerk."

Mass. Archives, Vol. 112, p. 147.

NOTE H. — PAGE 41.

The following extracts from the Order Book of the Selectmen of Malden, will convey some idea of the state of the currency towards the close of the war.

"An order on the treasurer to Jabez Lynde for £325, equal to \$1083, and 2 shillings, in the first emission of Continental Dollars, for half a cord of pine wood; and for 125 lbs. of pork at \$8 per lb. for the poor, as by his acct. dated Jan. 9, 1781, may appear.

Dated in Malden, Jan. 11, 1781.

By order of the Selectmen,

JOSEPH PERKINS, Town Clerk."

"Two orders on the treasurer to John Howell, for £780, for keeping his sister Pell 52 weeks, at \$50 of the emission of Continental Dollars per week.

Dated at Malden, March 5, 1781.

By order of the Selectmen,

JOSEPH PERKINS, Town Clerk."

"An order on the treasurer to Benj'n Waitt, it being for \$90 of the old emission of Continental Dollars; viz. for one bushel of Indian corn for the poor, \$30, and, for three pecks of rye for the poor, \$60.

Dated at Malden, March 6, 1782.

By order of the Selectmen,

JOSEPH PERKINS, Town Clerk."

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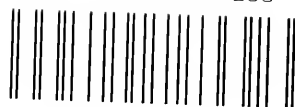
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